

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

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R 111515Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADICIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12705

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR,US, XA

SUBJ: SOVIET-SOMALI COMMUNIQUE

REF: MOSCOW 11114

1. SUMMARY. COMMUNIQUE ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED VISIT OF
SOMALI DELEGATION EMPHASIZES PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, ESPECIALLY
EAST AFRICA AND DJIBOUTI, WARNS OF IMPERIALIST (READ U.S.)
EFFORTS TO DIVERT AFRICAN ATTENTION FROM NATIONAL
LIBERATION STRUGGLE BY SOWING DISCORD AMONG AFRICAN STATES,
AND MENTIONS IMPORTANCE OF CPSU-SOMALI SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY
PART TIES. MILITARY ASPECTS OF SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONSHIP
ARE HIGHLIGHTED BY PAGE ONE KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (KZ) PRESS
COVERAGE GIVEN MEETING BETWEEN ALI SAMANTAR AND GENERAL
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KULIKOV. ONE-DAY DELAY IN PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIQUE

MAY REFLECT SOVIET-SOMALI DIFFERENCES OVER SPECIFIC WORDING OF SECTIONS DEALING WITH DJIBOUTI. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON COMMUNIQUE, CARRIED IN PRAVDA AUG 10, AND ON VISIT IN GENERAL. ASSUME DEPT HAS TEXT.

3. CLEAR EMPHASIS IN COMMUNIQUE IS ON ISSUES IN AFRICA, SPECIFICALLY DJIBOUTI BUT INCLUDING MORE THAN USUAL ATTENTION TO ATTEMPTS BY "FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION" TO CREATE A SCHISM BETWEEN STATES OF AFRICA, TO PROVOKE CONFLICT BETWEEN THEM IN ORDER TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM URGENT PROBLEMS OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE. THIS LINE CLOSELY FOLLOWS SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT TOWARD ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA; KENYA-UGANDA DIFFERENCES AND ALSO TOWARD ALLEGED U.S. POLICY SHIFT TOWARD AFRICA MARKED BY SECRETARY'S RECENT SPEECHES, AND RUMSFELD AND SCHAUFELE VISITS.

4. SOVIET LINE APPEARS INTENDED TO A) DIVERT ATTENTION FROM REAL CAUSES OF TENSION BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF EAST AFRICA AND B) HINDER AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE APPEARS BALANCED AND MODERATE TO US (AND TO FRENCH AMB DE LEUSSE WHO SAYS IT SHOULD CAUSE FRENCH NO PROBLEMS), BUT OBVIOUSLY SOMALIS WILL VIEW DJIBOUTI LANGUAGE THROUGH THEIR OWN IRREDENTIST GLASSES. WE ASSUME THAT SOVIETS MUST HAVE EXERTED SOME EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE DJIBOUTI SECTIONS OF COMMUNIQUE MEANT SAME THING TO BOTH SIDES AND WE FEEL THAT DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO SOMALI DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING THESE SECTIONS.

6. AS COMPARED WITH SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 14 (REFTEL), SOVIETS CHANGED DJIBOUTI-RELATED LANGUAGE SOMEWHAT TO SUIT SOMALIS, DELETING PHRASES "SOVEREIGNTY", "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" AND "NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" FROM SOVIET-SOMALI
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COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, ON THE WHOLE OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SOMALIS GAVE MORE THAN THEY RECEIVED ON DJIBOUTI.

7. ACCORDING GERMAN CHARGE LOEWE, SOMALI AMB TOLD HIM SOVIETS HAD PRESSED SIAD BARRE, WHEN HE WAS HERE FOR 25TH PARTY CONGRESS, FOR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING FORMATION OF SOMALI SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOMALIS TOOK UP SUGGESTION AND SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED

SAMANTAR VISIT. WHEN ASKED WHETHER REFERENCES TO SOVIET-SOMALI "COOPERATION" INCLUDED MILITARY AID, SOMALI AMB TOLD LOEWE THIS MEANT "ALL KINDS OF COOPERATION, INCLUDING DEFENSE". IN THIS CONNECTION, MILITARY ASPECT OF RELATIONSHIP WAS GIVEN SOME PROMINENCE BY PAGE ONE PICTURE AND TEXT IN AUG 6 KZ ON ALI SAMANTAR'S MEETING WITH SOVIET CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF AND FIRST DEP MIN DEF, GENERAL KULIKOV. KULIKOV WAS ALSO PRESENT AT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES AND AT KIRILENKO'S AUG 2 LUNCHEON FOR SAMANTAR.

8. THROUGHOUT VISIT EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING TIES BETWEEN CPSU AND NEW SOMALI SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, AS EVIDENCED BY PROMINENCE OF KIRILENKO AS WELL AS PONOMAREV THROUGHOUT MEETING.

9. ALL IN ALL, BASED ON SEAT-OF-THE-PANTS JUDGMENT RATHER THAN ANY HARD FACTS, VISIT STRIKES US AS HAVING BEEN MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL FOR BOTH SIDES. HOWEVER, DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE, FACT THAT SOVIETS DID NOT COME ACROSS WITH RINGING ENDORSEMENTS OF VARIOUS SOMALI POSITIONS, AND GENERAL LOW-KEY TREATMENT, SUGGEST THAT SOMALIS MAY HAVE LEFT MOSCOW WITHOUT HAVING ACHIEVED ALL THEIR ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES.
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